



WESTMINSTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Blvd.
Tuesday – April 24, 2012 at 6:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER A regular meeting of the Westminster Traffic Commission was called to order by Chairman A. Nguyen on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at 6:09 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, California.

SALUTE TO FLAG Commissioner Carey led the members of the audience in the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL **Commissioners Present:** Andrew Nguyen, Diana Carey, Linh Nguyen, and Gilbert Cruz

Commissioners Absent: Ken Robbins

Staff Present: Adolfo Ozaeta, Associate Civil Engineer; Corporal Lauderback and Lieutenant Vu, Police Department and Veronica Johnson, Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES The minutes of the Traffic Commission's regular meeting of January 31, 2012 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Carey, seconded by Commissioner L. Nguyen (3-0), with Vice Chairman Robbins being absent and Commissioner Cruz abstaining.

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED The first item to be considered at this evening's meeting was the Election of a New Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON The election of a New Chairperson and Vice Chairperson was deferred to the next meeting due to a lack of a full Commission on a motion by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Carey (4-0) with Vice Chairman Robbins being absent.

T.C. 77-142 Bishop Avenue The second item to be considered was T.C. 77-142-Request for On-Street Disabled Parking at 8701 Bishop Avenue.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that he had received a written request from Mr. Tomas Sanchez of 8701 Bishop Avenue requesting the on-street disabled parking. Mr. Sanchez's son has special needs which required him to purchase an oversized vehicle to be able to transport him in his wheelchair. The van does not properly fit in the

driveway and it is therefore necessary to park the vehicle in the street.

The City of Westminster's Standard Plan requires that residential streets with parking be a minimum of 36 feet wide and each approach shall consist of a ten foot travel lane with an eight foot curb parking lane. Mr. Sanchez's oversized vehicle is 94 inches wide; fitting within the eight foot parking lane required. There would be no impact to parking in the neighborhood.

STAFF'S

RECOMMENDATION Staff's recommendation was for the approval of the installation of on-street disabled parking at 8701 Bishop Avenue.

Chairman A. Nguyen opened the public hearing.

Tomas Sanchez, 8701 Bishop Avenue, spoke in favor of the installation. With the help of Mr. Ozaeta's translation, Mr. Sanchez expressed his need to park a small bus in order to transport his son, who has Spina Bifida, to and from medical appointments and in case of emergencies. Mr. Sanchez also explained that he had previously written a letter to OCTA for their assistance and they were unable to accommodate him. He also had enlisted the services of a medical transport, but they would show up late or sometimes not at all. There are times he needs to transport his son quickly and would be unable to wait for an ambulance.

Chairman Nguyen questioned if it was legal to park this type of vehicle in the street and what would happen on street sweeping days. Corporal Lauderback replied that the vehicle would still need to move on street sweeping days, as far as being legal, further investigation would have to take place.

Commissioner Carey mentioned that she had driven the subject area about 10am on a Saturday. She did not see any problem with vehicles being about to pass by the oversized vehicle. She did mention a palm tree in the parkway that might cover a sign if placed.

Commissioner Cruz inquired how the vehicle compared to a regular parking space; will the City be notified if the space is no longer needed; and is the resident aware that an on-street disabled parking space would not be for the exclusive use of the homeowner. Mr. Ozaeta replied that the vehicle in question fits within the standard parking

block and the resident was aware that the space is open to all people with a disabled parking placard; the resident was not concerned about it. He further noted that he did receive two phone calls about the item but they were questioning the location and were not opposed. Ms. Johnson added that every two years, staff sends out letters to all residents that have been granted an on-street disabled parking space to inquire if it is still needed; those that are not, are removed.

The question was raised about what the Municipal Code was in regards to parking an RV on the property. Mr. Ozaeta responded that he would inquire about that.

Commissioner L. Nguyen questioned if an owner of an RV could park in front of their home. Lieutenant Vu answered that in accordance with the new parking ordinance they would be in violation.

Commissioner A. Nguyen commented that large vehicles block visibility, what if the neighbors complain about sight visibility. Mr. Ozaeta responded that there are no height limitations or any mechanism to enforce height limitations. Lieutenant Vu added that a regular vehicle would impact sight visibility out of a driveway the same as a large vehicle. Commissioner Carey further added that the neighbor's driveway is far enough away that sight visibility should not be impacted.

MOTION

Commissioner Cruz moved to approve staff's recommendation to install on-street disabled parking at 8701 Bishop Avenue, seconded by Commissioner Carey.

VOTE

The motion was carried by a 4-0 vote, with Vice Chairman Robbins being absent.

ORDINANCE 2493

Lieutenant Vu gave a brief overview of the new parking ordinance that was approved by Council. The four main points were:

- Vehicles could only park on City streets for 72 hours and would then have to move a minimum of 350 yards.
- RVs are allowed to be in City streets for 24 hours only if they are loading or unloading.
- Non-motorized trailers must be attached to a vehicle and must move once loading or unloading is complete.
- Large/Oversize vehicles, except public transportation and RVs (for 24 hours), are prohibited from parking on City streets except while they are in the process of making a delivery.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no "New Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no "Old Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**INFORMATION
& REPORTS**

Commissioner Carey gave an update on the I-405 project. She stated that they are currently reviewing the Environmental Report and are scheduling public meetings mid April to June.

**ORAL
COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner L. Nguyen asked if there was a general plan for billboards in the City. Mr. Ozaeta said he would inquire and inform him of the answer.

**WRITTEN
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Written Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ITEMS
COMMISSIONERS
MAY WISH TO
DISCUSS**

There were no "Items Commissioner May Wish To Discuss" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ITEMS STAFF MAY
WISH TO DISCUSS**

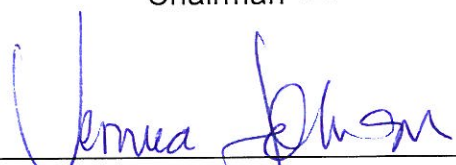
There were no "Items Staff May Wish to Discuss" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrew Nguyen
Chairman

Veronica Johnson
Secretary